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FLIGHT OPERATIONS

CPDLC CONFIRM ROUTE

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The information contained herein is advisory only in nature.



Increased Utilization of Data Link Services in the North Atlantic

Implementation of the North Atlantic Data Link Mandate (NAT DLM) in 2015 is significantly advancing air traffic control services across the North Atlantic. Use of Automatic Dependent Surveillance – Contract (ADS-C) and Controller Pilot Data Link Communications (CPDLC) provides more accurate position information and more reliable communication links. These features form the basis for the introduction of reduced separation standards, allowing more optimum routings to avoid significant weather conditions and improve operational efficiency. These changes have introduced new operational procedures for flight crews.

Two operational procedural areas which have proved problematic for flight crews are receipt of a CPDLC re-clearance which can LOAD directly into the aircraft FMC, and the CPDLC message "CONFIRM ASSIGNED ROUTE".

ATC re-clearances received as an UPLINKED or LOADABLE FMC route

IFALPA has received support from the NAT Air Navigation Service Providers (ANSPs) to increase the utilization of route re-clearances which can be loaded directly into the FMC, rather than relying on flight crew manual entry of multiple waypoints.

Effective December 1, 2016, ISAVIA (covering Icelandic, northern Atlantic and Polar airspace) will implement use of re-clearances that can LOAD directly into the FMC as part of the CPDLC clearance message process. Flight crews should be fully aware of the procedures outlined in their aircraft flight manual or operations manual to utilize this important feature.

In evaluating previous NAT error reports concerning flight crew usage of this LOAD feature, a common error has been identified. When receiving a re-clearance containing multiple waypoints, some aircraft FMC systems may display the information in the following format: CLEARED TO [SEPAL] VIA

[route clearance, such as 50N050W 50N040W 49N030W 48N020W]

In this example, the additional [*route clearance*] waypoints may NOT be displayed on the ACARS/FMC screen until: (1) the re-clearance is printed, (2) additional ACARS/FMC message pages are reviewed or (3) the LOAD prompt is utilized to automatically LOAD the route into the FMC.

IFALPA Briefing on CONFIRM ROUTE Clearances

Background

- North Atlantic Air Navigation Service Providers (ANSPs, such as Gander/ Shanwick/Reykjavik) are introducing the use of the CPDLC message "CONFIRM ROUTE" to verify the actual FMS routing being flown by the aircraft.
- When the proper CPDLC automated reply is sent to ATC, the current FMS routing being flown by the aircraft will be automatically downlinked to ATC with no manual route input entries required by the flight crew.
- This allows the ATC system to automatically check the aircraft routing against the ATC "cleared" flight plan. Any "nonconformance" issues can be identified for action by the controller and flight crew.
- This briefing reviews how Gulfstream aircraft receive/respond to this uplink message.



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Required Steps



Uplink Message (UM137) sent from Shanwick (EGGX) . Line-Select CONFIRM.

Additional Information



Upon reviewing the MESSAGE LOG, the automated RESPONSE can be seen.



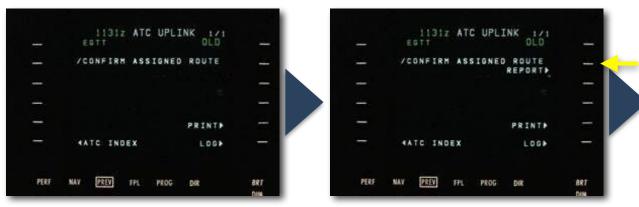
ACTIVE FPLN RETRIEVED automatically appears. Line-Select SEND*. Downlink Message (DM40) is then sent to the Current Data Authority (CDA). NOTE: no REMARKS (Free Text) are necessary or recommended, as the objective of this message transaction is to mitigate transposition error.



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Required Steps



Uplink Message (UM137) sent. Within a matter of seconds, REPORT will appear. Line-Select REPORT.



/ASSIGNED ROUTE element is a copy the Master FMS' Active Flight Plan (Downlink Message 40). Line-Select SEND.

NOTE: no Free Text is necessary or recommended, as the objective of this message transaction is to mitigate transposition error. Gulfstream

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Additional Information

• If the Downlink Message is printed, entire FMS routing is viewable.

FLT 10 N555GA TALL NO N550DA ASSIGNED BOUTE EDDS DEST KSAV 492-0N 4930N 4740N 44508 TO EMOULE TO SPINY PITRN ---- END OF MESSAGE

Printed DM40



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CPWG/22 - WP08 25 October 2016

Twenty-Second Meeting of the Cross Polar Trans East Air Traffic Management Providers' Work Group (CPWG/22)

(Paris, France 25-27 October 2016)

Agenda Item 5: Update on Action Items

CONFIRM ASSIGNED ROUTE TESTS IN BIRD

(Presented by Iceland)

SUMMARY

This working paper provides overview of the tests being performed in BIRD on the CONFIRM ASSIGNED ROUTE (UM137) AND ASSIGNED ROUTE (DM40) CPDLC messages in Reykjavik OACC.

1. Introduction

- This information paper provides overview of the tests being performed in BIRD on the CONFIRM 1.1 ASSIGNED ROUTE (UM137) AND ASSIGNED ROUTE (DM40) CPDLC messages in Revkiavik OACC.
- 2. Discussion
- 2.1 Reykjavik OACC is developing new functionality to automatically uplink the CPDLC message CONFIRM ASSIGNED ROUTE (UM137) to aircraft as follows:
 - a) Immediately after becoming the Current Data Authority (CDA); and
 - b) A defined minutes after receiving a WILCO in response to a CPDLC reroute message **UM79**
- The route in the received ASSIGNED ROUTE (DM40) message from the aircraft is automatically 22 compared to the route in the Flight Data Processing System (FDPS) and any discrepancy is brought to the attention of the controller.
- 2.3 Iceland AIC 012/2016 was issued on 28 June 2016 with guidance material for aircraft operators on the CONFIRM ASSIGNED ROUTE functionality, see attachment A.
- 2.4 The first phase of the project involves a small group of selected controllers manually uplinking the UM137 message in low workload conditions to gauge the readiness of aircraft operators to correctly respond to the message.
- 2.5 The three graphs below show the results so far after sending 596 UM137 messages.

Additional References

- FAA Documentation
- Icelandic NOTAM •
- **AIN Article** •



flight crew with a "SEND" prompt, which downlinks (via CPDLC) the active route from the aircraft's FMS to ATC.

"If you've operated on the 'half-tracks' in the NAT recently, you'll have seen this," noted flight-planning company Flight Service Bureau. "With the half-tracks, the potential for nav errors are now (quite a lot, perhaps) higher than before. Waypoints are that bit more complicated, and 5030N 30W is a little too similar to 50N 30W.

"So, to prevent you reading back the clearance correctly and then screwing up the route in the FMS," the center will ask via datalink for the planned route upon entering the oceanic airspace, the company said. "All you have to do is acknowledge the message, scroll through your route and check it looks OK, and send it back down to them. If it's the same as your clearance, then that's that. If not, or you don't reply, you'll get an additional message."

ATC SAFETY

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